



PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

CHAPTER 7 PARKS AND OPEN SPACE



INTRODUCTION

This Plan has been prepared for the City of Anna, a public entity responsible for providing adequate, safe and accessible public park, recreation, and open space facilities to all citizens within its jurisdiction. General background information on the City of Anna has been provided below, and is followed by an overview and history of national issues affecting local park, recreation, and open space planning efforts.

Anna is a small North Central Texas town (population: 8,100 as of 2010), containing a total land area of approximately 8,624 acres, and located roughly 10 miles north east of McKinney and 14 miles south of Sherman. Anna was developed on flat to gently rolling terrain with scattered trees. Situated in northeast Collin County, the City is at an elevation ranging from approximate 500 to 770 feet above sea level. U.S. Highway 75 and State Highways 5 traverse the City from north to south while State Highway 121 and West White Street (Farm to Market Highway 455) traverse from east to west. McKinney is the closest major economic center.

With the population estimated to be 8,100 people in 2010 an increase of 6,875 persons was experienced since the 2000 census, which reported the Anna population as 1,225. According to the projections in the Population Section of this Comprehensive Plan, the population is expected to significantly increase over the next 20 years to about 35,400 people. Figure 6 graphically illustrates the past and anticipated population growth.

It is not anticipated that the demographic composition will change significantly. The 2000 population composition is indicated by Table 2 reflects the findings of the Local Context Section of this Comprehensive Plan. As shown, in 2000 Anna was 85.8 percent White, 0.9 percent black, 27.6 percent Hispanic Origin of any race, 0.7 percent Asian, 1.1 percent American Indians, 10.1 percent other, and 1.4 percent two or more races.

Families with children constitute more than 39 percent of the population. The

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median age of the Anna population is 37 years. Since 8.6 percent of Anna's population is over 65 years of age, 17.6 percent is under 18 years old, and 44.4 percent is 25 to 54 years old, it is evident that the demand for park and recreation services must meet the needs of both young families and a broad range of age groups, including Anna's children and elderly. In 2000 Anna had 338 children under 18 years of age, and is projected to have roughly 9,800 children under 18 by 2030.

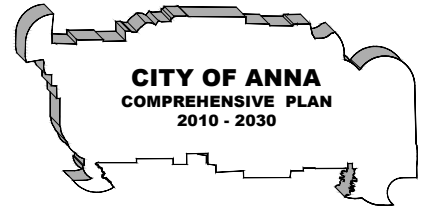
Before addressing specific park, recreation and open space planning information and strategies related to Anna, the remainder of the introduction to this Plan has been devoted to an overview of pertinent history, general context information, and significant issues and principals related to American recreation and open space planning.

Opportunities for convenient, affordable participation in outdoor recreational activities materially enhance the health, well being, and human development of urban and suburban citizens. As America's cities and towns grew, the public and private sectors recognized the importance of recreation, and have often cooperated in efforts to fulfill the human recreational need by assuring adequate public access to park and recreation facilities. The historical development of cooperative recreational efforts is summarized below.

During the transition of our society from an agricultural to an industrial society, human settlement patterns became denser. The land was subdivided into smaller parcels with increased percentages of impervious, manmade surfaces. Natural areas were sacrificed to make way for more urban environments. People living and working in these denser, town environments no longer could experience the freedom of movement and relaxation associated with larger open spaces. With the shrinkage of the agricultural life style, regular contact with nature became far less convenient and frequently unavailable to the public.

In response to the unmet human need for outdoor recreation space, town leaders found it necessary to provide park and open space opportunities in order to beautify

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their urban environments, and to help nurture the healthy growth and development of their citizenry. The "City Beautiful Movement" took hold, and spread across America. The significant, positive effect of parks and open spaces became generally well recognized. Positive responses from urban citizens, improvements in the appearance of the cityscape, and strengthening of the local economy were all important results of sound park planning. Parks, recreation, and open space became an integral part of the quality of life demanded by citizens, and became generally known as essential amenities sought by people when choosing a place to live and work. Standards evolved for the appropriate provision of community recreation and beautification.

Today, many communities have much to consider when developing standards, which guide their local planning efforts for maximizing parks and recreation opportunities. First, the need and demand for park and recreation facilities in a given community are directly proportional to the population and environmental opportunities of the service area. Meeting gross area park standards alone does not adequately address a community's park needs. Perhaps, even more important is the availability of improved and accessible park areas that conveniently provide citizens with a balanced variety of facilities and environmental protection.

When determining specific service area needs, and the local strategies for addressing citizen demand for essential recreation facilities, a community should keep some basic park planning issues in mind including:

- Timing of land acquisition;
- Trends affecting demand;
- General design principals;
- Regional priorities;
- Conventional planning criteria; and
- Local determination of standards.

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TIMING OF LAND ACQUISITION

The City has the responsibility to take the lead in assuring timely reservation and acquisition of lands necessary for the creation of a well-conceived park and open space system. If provision of parks and open spaces is to be economically viable, prudent funding limitations require early land acquisition, well in advance of adjacent development. Unless it becomes necessary to correct a condition where a park deficiency is significantly depressing property values, public acquisitions of relatively expensive, developed land and/or removal of buildings are both strategies that are neither well-accepted, fiscally responsible, nor financially feasible.

TRENDS AFFECTING DEMAND

Parks, open space, and recreation facilities are obviously needed to serve all age groups. Further, the citizen demand for addressing this need is increasing with the growth of our population and changing social expectations. A number of trends have affected the volume of demand for recreational facilities:

- The increase in life span coupled with earlier retirement age broadens the service demand for recreational facilities, especially for facilities serving the senior members of our communities.
- The increases in competitive sports activities, particularly for younger age groups, have increased the need for neighborhood park facilities.
- The increase in organized recreation program participation has increased the need for recreational facilities.
- Citizens expect more priority to be given by the public sector to creating a higher quality of life and providing greater environmental protection.

GENERAL DESIGN PRINCIPALS

The normal principles which generally apply to the design of most recreation areas and facilities include the following:

- Active recreation areas should usually be separated according to the age of

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the users being served. If facilities for children are not separated according to age, the safety of younger children may be unnecessarily compromised; older children frequently tend to monopolize facilities. Certain areas should specifically be designed for use by family groups, which include all ages.

- The recreation site should be accessible to the people who will use it. Generally the age of the user determines the size of the area served by a park facility. The service area of a neighborhood playground is generally limited to a radius of about a ½ mile, which is an easy and safe walking distance for most children. A facility designed to serve the entire family, with auto accessibility, normally serves a one to five mile area.
- Where locally permissible, combined municipal and school recreation centers are a recommended and functionally appropriate. Recreational facilities should be combined with school facilities wherever possible to serve the educational and recreational needs of the local neighborhood. The two facilities are closely related and often their purposes, programs and activities overlap. Summertime use of the school's outdoor facilities allows for an economical expansion of the use. The adjacent park-school grounds should be specifically designed to be complementary and integrated.
- Where possible, locational choices for recreation facilities should enhance opportunities for environmental protection by incorporating and respecting natural features that may otherwise be harmed by land development required for other uses.
- Playground areas should be designed so as to create a play environment that enhances learning and aids in developing the total child. Playgrounds should provide the opportunity for a child to safely interact with the play environment at their own level of development. Where possible, manipulative play opportunities should be provided, allowing the child to build, transport, and change their environment. Playground areas should also encourage

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development of the following: large and fine motor skills; eye-hand coordination; balance and locomotion skills; encouragement for children to learn about themselves in relation to the physical world; and opportunities for fantasy play, social development, and decision-making. Additionally, playground design should provide: a central vantage point for ease of supervision; shaded area for passive play; paved area for pavement games; grassy area for free play; a variety of challenge levels; opportunities for upper body development; and opportunities for learning about the natural environment.

CONVENTIONAL PLANNING CRITERIA

A general criterion for a community's total required park area compared to the total population is one acre of developed park area for each 100 persons, or approximately 10 percent of the total developed area.

LOCAL DETERMINATION OF STANDARDS

Recommendations for the type, size or number of facilities in a park should be based on an established set of standards, which are deemed by a given community to be acceptable, workable and practical. Various sets of standards have been adopted by local, state and federal agencies. There is no set of standards that are right for all communities. Like individuals, communities each have their own character, needs, strengths, and weaknesses. The park standards actually adopted by a community are an individual choice, depending upon specific preferences, various unique factors, and environmental opportunities of the community. No entity is better qualified to evaluate local needs than an informed community and its local leadership.

PLANNING PROCESS

The Citizen Master Plan Update Committee with the assistance of the Anna Parks

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Board considered the basic park planning issues expressed in the forgoing introduction, and where possible, incorporated them into local planning process to determine its unique park and recreation opportunities and needs. Additionally, in March of 2010 public meetings and hearings were held with the Planning and Zoning Commission and the City Council to refine local determination of needs.

After obtaining the above-described input, the final list of needs for the Anna Park facilities were established.

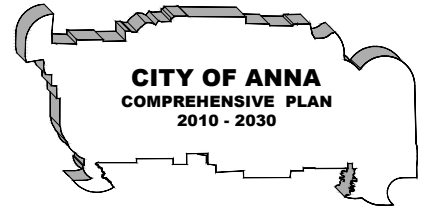
An updated inventory and analysis of the existing facilities, and a basic needs assessment were then compared to: public input; previously assimilated information; population and growth projections; an analysis of Anna's unique set of opportunities; and the basic park and recreation planning principals and standards outlined in the above introduction. Out of this comparison came a set of goals and objectives that reflected the locally determined standards and needs. The goals and objectives were then translated into a physical parks and open space plan along with implementation recommendations.

INVENTORY OF EXISTING FACILITIES & OPEN SPACE

In 2009 an inventory of the City's open space, parks and recreational facilities was conducted to determine the location, type and number of amenities offered to local citizens. The location of the existing Anna park facilities as well as other park opportunities are graphically illustrated in Figure 18 and are listed in Table 12.

The City's existing parks contains approximately 120 acres. The parks serve the entire community.

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**TABLE 12
CITY OF ANNA
PARK / SCHOOL / PRIVATE RECREATION INVENTORY**

SLAYTER CREEK PARK

- ◆ 12 – PICNIC TABLES
- ◆ 6-GRILLS
- ◆ 1 – PICNIC PAVILION (50' X 100')
- ◆ 2 – TENNIS COURTS WITH 2 BASKETBALL GOALS
- ◆ 1 – LIGHTED BASEBALL FIELD
- ◆ 1 - UNLIGHTED BASEBALL FIELD
- ◆ 1 - LIGHTED SOFTBALL FIELD



- ◆ 1 - UNLIGHTED SOFTBALL FIELD
 - ◆ 1 - LARGE SOCCER FIELD
 - ◆ 1 - SHUFFLE BOARD COURT
 - ◆ 2 - HORSESHOE PITS
 - ◆ SKATEBOARD PARK
 - ◆ PLAYGROUND
 - ◆ 6-SWING SEATS
- ◆ 3 – PARK BENCHES
 - ◆ WALKING TRAIL
 - ◆ 6 EXERCISE STATIONS
 - ◆ TEXAS SMARTSCAPE DEMONSTRATION GARDEN
 - ◆ CULTURAL RESOURCE MARKERS

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NATURAL SPRINGS PARK

- ◆ WALKING TRAIL
- ◆ POND WITH FLOATING DOCK



SHERLEY PARK

- ◆ LIGHTED BASEBALL FIELD



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JOHNSON PARK

- ◆ 2 – GIRLS SOFTBALL FIELDS
- ◆ PLAYGROUND
- ◆ 4 – SWING SEATS



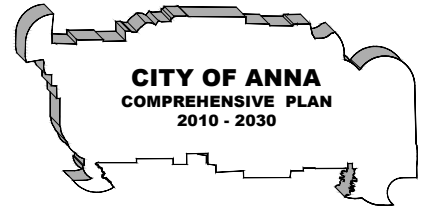
GEER PARK

- ◆ MULTI-PURPOSE FIELD



Looking toward the northeast from Smith Street.

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BRYANT PARK

♦ MULTI-PURPOSE FIELD



Looking West from Bryant Boulevard.

UNNAMED PARKLAND ADJACENT TO PECAN GROVE SUBDIVISION



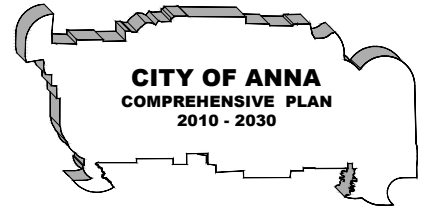
Looking west from cul-de-sac at the north end of Leslie Lane in the Pecan Grove Subdivision.

UNNAMED PARKLAND ADJACENT TO CREEKSIDE SUBDIVISION



Looking south from cul-de-sac at north end of Creekview Dr.

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ANNA ISD SCHOOL FACILITIES

- ♦ 1 - FOOTBALL FIELD (LIGHTED) WITH TRACK BLEACHERS AND SCORE BOARD
- ♦ 2 – PRACTICE FOOTBALL FIELD
- ♦ PLAYGROUNDS AT THE TWO ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOLS
- ♦ AISD USES CITY BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL FIELDS & Tennis Courts

HURRICANE CREEK COUNTRY CLUB **(MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED)**

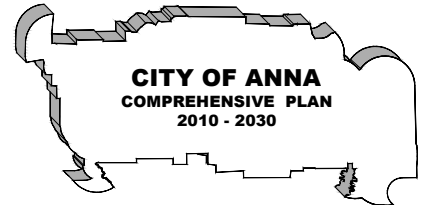
- ♦ 18 HOLE GOLF COURSE
- ♦ SWIMMING POOL
- ♦ 35-ACRE LAKE
- ♦ PICNIC GROUNDS
- ♦ DRIVING RANGE
- ♦ PRACTICE GREENS
- ♦ DINING ROOM AND BAR AREA

It should be noted that school facilities are specifically designed for school needs, and are not intended to meet the demands and regulations of league play or to beautify the community. The Schools Boys Baseball teams, Girls softball teams, tennis team, use the City facilities at Slayter Creek Park. Additionally, the Golf Course is private requiring a membership therefore does not meet the needs of the general population of Anna.

The following existing features represent significant open space/linkage opportunities:

- (a) The floodplain areas associated with tributaries and main branches of Slayter Creek, Throckmorton Creek, East Fork of the Trinity River, Sister Grove Creek, and Pilot Grove Creek.
- (b) Certain other vacant lands and right-of-way which could allow for future trail connections (see Figure 18).

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Within Anna a private fishing lake exists. The general populous of Anna can not use the lake. Other private water related facilities are associated with some of the region's lakes, but have limited public access and are not generally accessible to most Anna citizens. Private facilities are also located in larger surrounding towns (such as Sherman, McKinney, and Dallas), and are available only to those able and willing to travel the distances and pay the required entry fees/dues.

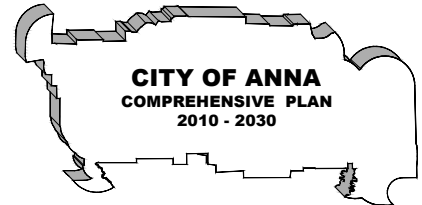
ANALYSIS/ NEEDS ASSESSMENT

After reviewing: the natural features, opportunities, and inventory of facilities; the public input; and the general planning principles and generic standards included in the introduction, the following minimum standards/criteria for recreational facilities were locally determined to be appropriate for the City of Anna to provide adequate recreation opportunities have been tabulated in Table 13.

**TABLE 13
ANNA
NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

Open Space:	1 ac/100 pop. (in addition to all parks and schools)
Developed Parks:	15 ac/1000 population (minimum of 25 acres)
Trails:	1 miles/2000 pop.
Passive Play:	1 ac/500 population
Baseball Fields:	1/750 population (L)
Tennis:	1 court/5000 population (L)
Beach Volleyball:	1 court/4000 population
Basketball:	1 court/2000 population (L)
Soccer Fields:	1/4000 population (for each of 3 age groups)
Playgrounds:	1/500 children
Picnic Shelter:	1/5000 population
Picnic Tables:	1/300 pop. (in addition to shelter tables)

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Comm. Center:	1/10,000 population
Gazebo:	1/5000 population
Horseshoes:	1 set of pits/5,000 population
Shuffle Board:	1 court/10,000 population
Skateboard Park	1 per 50,000 population
Splash Park	1 per 50,000 population
Frisbee Golf	1 per 50,000 population

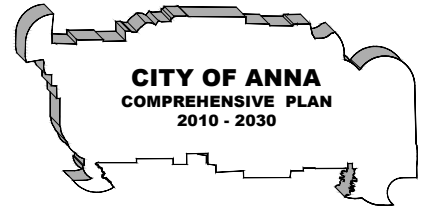
The City of Anna has a current 2010 population of 8,100 people, and has a projected 2030 population of 35,400. It is not anticipated that the demographic composition will change significantly. In addition to population demand, there are some important factors that should also be taken into account when considering need. The priority listing of problems are as follows:

- 1) Inadequate amount of park land and park facilities.
- 2) The school recreation facilities are not intended or designed to meet the same objectives as a public park.
- 3) There is no open space system implemented for the greater Anna area to provide additional recreation facilities for the future projected population.
- 4) There is no adequate pedestrian linkage between neighborhoods, schools and public parks and recreation facilities.
- 5) Inadequacy of most standards.

When taking the locally determined standards and opportunities into account, and comparing them to the existing and projected population, as well as the above-mentioned factors affecting need, it becomes evident that there are significant areas not addressed by the existing parks and recreation facilities.

Based on a 2010 population of 8,100 persons and a projected 2015 population of 12,800 the following facilities should be provided within 5 years, approximately 200 additional acres of parks and open space linkage needs to be provided and/or

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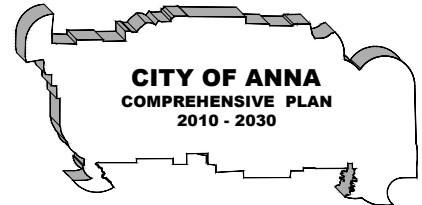
incorporated throughout the community, and roughly 3.3 miles of multi-use trails need to be constructed to connect the school campuses, parks, and neighborhoods into an integrated open space system. Other facilities within first 5 years include:

- 5 playgrounds;
- community center;
- 30 picnic tables (with grills);
- 1 tennis court;
- 3 gazebo;
- 25 acres of passive play area;
- 4 basketball courts;
- 10 baseball fields
- 6 soccer field (3 fields to accommodate all age groups);
- 1 frisbee golf;
- 1 splashpad;
- 1 horseshoe pits; and
- 1 shuffle board court.

Within 10 years when the population approaches 18,000 the following facilities should be added: approximately 130 additional acres of parks and open space linkage needs to be provided and/or incorporated throughout the community, and roughly 3 miles of multi-use trails need to be constructed to connect the school campuses, parks, and neighborhoods into an integrated open space system. Other additional facilities between 5 and 10 years include:

- 3 playgrounds;
- 20 picnic tables (with grills);
- 1 tennis court;
- 1 gazebo;
- 12 acres of passive play area;
- 3 basketball courts;
- 8 baseball fields

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- 2 soccer field (3 fields to accommodate all age groups);
- 1 horseshoe pits; and
- 1 shuffle board courts.

**TABLE 14
ANNA
NEEDED FACILITIES**

FACILITY TYPE	CURRENT FACILITIES	CURRENT NEEDS	NEEDS BY 2030	ADDITIONAL FACILITIES
OPEN SPACE	37.5 AC.	81 AC.	354 AC.	316.5 AC.
PARKS	82.5 AC.	121.5 AC.	531 AC.	448.5 AC.
TRAILS	3.1 MI.*	4 MI.	17.7 MI.	14.6 MI.
PASSIVE PLAY	0	16.2 AC.	70.8 AC.	70.8 A.C.
BALL FIELDS	7	11	47	40
TENNIS COURTS	2	2	7	5
BEACH VOLLEYBALL	0	2	9	9
BASKETBALL COURTS	2	4	18	16
MULTI-PURPOSE FIELDS	3	6	26	20
PLAYGROUNDS	2	4	18	16
PICNIC SHELTERS	1	2	7	6
PICNIC TABLES	12	27	118	106
COMMUNITY CENTER	0	1	3	3
GAZEBO	0	2	7	7
HORSESHOE PITS	2	2	7	5
SHUFFLE BOARD COURTS	1	2	7	6
SKATEBOARD PARK	1	1	1	0
SPLASH PAD PARK	0	1	1	1
FRISBEE GOLF COURSE	0	1	1	1

BASED ON NEEDS ASSESSMENT.

*Includes Phase II of Natural Springs Park.

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After 10 years more open space and any other deficiencies should be addressed to meet Table 14 guidelines.

POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITIES

The Anna community has a fortunate opportunity to create a system of parks and open space that will greatly enhance the quality of life of its existing and future citizens. The relative geographic distribution and arrangement of the features listed below combine to represent a pattern of opportunity for a cost-effective system of accessible park, open space, and recreational facilities: the environmentally sensitive floodplain areas associated with tributaries and branches of the East Fork of the Trinity River, Hurricane Creek, Throckmorton Creek, Slayter Creek, Sister Grove Creek, and Pilot Grove Creek; vacant lands and right-of-way which could allow for future trail connections (see Figure 19); and, the relative locations of the existing school sites, and existing City park.

The location of each component of this comprehensive system opportunity is illustrated in Figure 19. The strong level of public participation and commitment in the City of Anna will be the driving force to capitalize on this fortunate set of worthwhile opportunities.

GOALS, PLAN AND RECOMMENDATIONS

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goals are clear, concise statements of what an individual or group desires to occur in the future with regard to a general topic of consideration. A goal does not determine how or when any action is to be performed, but does express a party's future intent. Goals may imply aggressive personal action or may call for mild encouragement of others to act. Goals may be short or long range, or may be easy or difficult to reach. Goals may be extensions of trends from the past, maintain the

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present course, or chart completely new directions. Goals are always expressions of present desire, and should be periodically reviewed and adjusted.

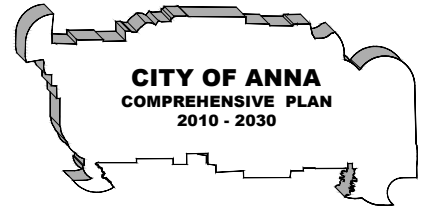
Goals are best made by comparing what is with what is desired. Influences of opportunities and constraints, changing needs, and future trends must be taken into account when formulating goals.

A set of goals should create a balance between goals that are easy and goals that are difficult to achieve; however, goals are most potent when they clearly articulate an inspired vision of the future. Goal setters should be willing to dare to dream and share their visions. Inspirations may always be tempered with practicality, but practical thought is not often inspired. Clear, inspired, far reaching goals that articulate active new direction are the most difficult goals to formulate and achieve, but are worth the extra effort.

The results intended by achievement of goals to be set for Anna recreation and open space planning includes the following:

- To provide for as many locally determined priority needs as possible.
- To establish new and different park and recreation opportunities within the Anna jurisdiction and intended service area.
- To improve the geographic distribution/access of park and recreation opportunities.
- To maximize the use of development funds for basic park and recreation opportunities.
- To establish recreational facilities readily availability to minority and low-income citizens.

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- To address the needs of all age groups, including the elderly and youth-at-risk.
- To involve the cooperation of other governmental jurisdictions.
- To involve land that would not otherwise be used for open space, park and/or recreation purposes, and to involve support by the private sector.
- To provide for acquisition, preservation, and conservation of park and recreation lands that provide needed open space.
- To promote conservation of natural resources by proposing the use of native plant materials and protection of natural waterways.
- To maximize community support and private contribution.

The goals for the City of Anna with regard to open space, parks, and recreation are listed below. Under each of the three overall goals are listed objectives that describe how the goal is to be achieved. The Goals and objectives should be attained by 2030.

GOAL 1: Plan and acquire land and easements as necessary to appropriately expand Anna's parks and open space system to meet the needs of area citizens.

Objective 1.1: Obtain approximately 200 acres of park and open space land in close proximity to the urbanized area of Anna. (Within five years)

Objective 1.2: Plan, acquire, fund, and construct the following recreation facilities in the secured land: 3.3 miles of multi-use trail section (with node amenities and planned in a manner to tie into the citywide open space/trail system); four basketball courts; five additional playgrounds; benches; one tennis court; 30 picnic tables with grills; one shuffle board courts; one

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horseshoe pits; ten baseball fields; one Frisbee golf course; one splashpad park; six soccer fields; three gazebo; and parking facilities. (Within five years)

Objective 1.3: Develop plans and construct a Community Center. (Within five years)

Objective 1.4: Develop innovative, cooperative funding strategies to properly maintain the existing and future parks and open space system. (Within five years)

GOAL 2: Plan and acquire land and easements as necessary to appropriately expand Anna's parks and open space system to meet the needs of area citizens.

Objective 2.1: Formulate and begin implementation of an acquisition/donation plan for: (a) acquiring 130 plus acres of park land; (b) within certain right-of-ways, plan, acquire, fund, and construct 3 additional miles of multi-use trail section (with node amenities and planned in a manner to tie into the citywide open space/trail system); three basketball court; benches; twenty picnic tables with grills; three playground and parking facilities; (Within ten years)

Objective 2.2: Formulate and adopt policies and ordinances that protect the acquired/donated park land and open space easements. (Within five years)

LOCAL PRIORITY NEEDS

In order to most effectively address the forgoing goals and objectives, the following local priority needs should be addressed in the order listed:

LOCAL PRIORITY #1 – Construction of a Frisbee Golf facility.

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LOCAL PRIORITY #2 – Construction of a Splashpad Park.

LOCAL PRIORITY #3 – Construction of a Gazebo.

LOCAL PRIORITY #4 – Obtaining Park Land.

LOCAL PRIORITY #5 – Constructing additional baseball/softball fields.

LOCAL PRIORITY #6 – Constructing Multi Use Trail System. (for more detail, see Design Guidelines in Physical Plan/Recommendations below).

LOCAL PRIORITY #7 – Constructing a Community Center.

LOCAL PRIORITY #8 – Constructing playgrounds.

LOCAL PRIORITY #9 – Installing Picnic Tables and Grills

LOCAL PRIORITY #10 – Building Soccer Fields.

LOCAL PRIORITY #11 – Constructing basketball courts.

LOCAL PRIORITY #12 – Constructing horseshoe pits and shuffleboard courts.

LOCAL PRIORITY #13 - Add other recreational facilities as may be needed to meet the foregoing goals, objectives, and locally determined standards for recreation and open space which include tennis courts, horseshoe pits, shuffleboard courts and soccer fields.

In addressing the foregoing local priority needs, the plan and implementation sections below have been formulated and should be considered in relationship to the above goals section.

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PHYSICAL PLAN/RECOMMENDATIONS

The purpose of the plan and recommendations is to provide community direction in a constantly changing environment. Under existing and currently projected conditions and circumstances, the City of Anna's parks, open space, and recreational needs will be well satisfied if the various segments of the community will work together in organizing, programming, promoting, operating, and maintaining the existing and proposed facilities. The costs of private and public time and money will be well spent if the plan recommendations are followed and updated on a regular basis. Few things have so positive an effect on the quality of life in a community as a well-executed plan for a community's parks, open space and recreation facilities.

Acceptance of these plan recommendations does not mean that every proposed facility will be built, rather it means that there is an overall vision which will guide specific short term decisions. Such individual decision-making processes too often lose sight of the larger, long range picture of the City of Anna's possible future, but these recommendations should be helpful to future decision-making as each plan component is gradually considered for implementation or revision.

The physical recreation and open space plan for the City of Anna is illustrated in Figure 19. The improvements included in the first four local priority needs should be specifically planned and met as recommended in the implementation section below. The programming of these improvements should be coordinated with the school district (and the school district should be encouraged to coordinate the programming and use of their recreational facilities with the City).

When specific implementation measures are being planned, specific design criteria should be developed and considered prior to purchasing equipment or beginning construction drawings.

The selection of play equipment for future playground areas and for playground

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upgrades should generally follow the guidelines described below:

Site Safety: All playground equipment should be located in a manner that observes the recommended use zones and fall zones, and should have the appropriate depth of resilient safety surfacing placed around and under the equipment. The surfacing material should not prevent reasonable access by persons with physical disabilities.

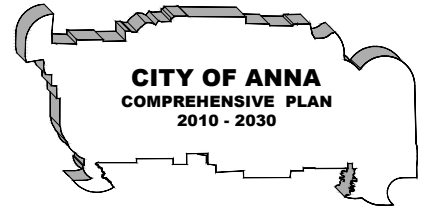
Access and Egress: Each play item should be accessible to the intended user and not overtax their developmental ability. Multi-component structures should provide for a variety of graduated skill levels for user access and egress. Handicapped access and use should be considered and evaluated for each play area.

Swings: Swings should only be placed in the play environment if they can be located out of the general path of safety. Where space permits, there should be a minimum of six swing positions provided for each playground area. A minimum of one swing position should be accessible to persons with physical disabilities. Swing top rail height should not exceed ten feet.

Slides: A variety of sliding experiences should be provided as either freestanding units part of a multi-component play structure. Freestanding slides should not be higher than six feet. Sliding poles are not recommended for children under the age of five. At least one sliding device should be accessible to persons with physical disabilities.

Climbers: A range of climbing opportunities should be made available that provide a variety of challenge levels. The climbing component's material, size, and direction of climb should vary. Climbers may also be used to promote socialization. A structure such as a geo dome allows several children to use it in different manners at the same time. Climbers offering opportunities for children to move their bodies in, out and through spaces are recommended. An

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accessible climber should be provided.

Balance and Movement: At least one type of balance activity should be provided in each play area. Balance equipment includes balance beams, net climbers, suspension bridges, chain walks, tunnels, and spring platforms.

Upper Body Development: At least one apparatus that increases upper body strength and coordination should be provided for each playground. Accessible apparatus should be provided. The apparatus may be freestanding or part of a multi-component play structure.

Design for the open space/trail system should consider the following general guidelines.

Open Space Width: Average of 30 feet with larger widths as needed and available at nodes.

Trail Width: 8 feet preferred; 6 feet minimum.

Trail Material: Asphalt or concrete.

Node locations: Shady, convenient areas at destinations or points of frequent trail access/egress.

Node Amenities: Lighting, drinking fountain, bench, seasonal plantings, change in paving pattern, and incorporation of existing trees for shade.

Street ROW Portions: Where possible, soften edges with tree and shrub plantings; provide adequate stripped-off lanes, or an 8-foot sidewalk, or a six-foot sidewalk with a 4-foot parkway between the curb and sidewalk.

Street Crossings: Stripe and sign for pedestrian crossing; provide handicap ramping.

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Trail Drainage: Provide drains at low areas; slope to avoid puddling; where crossing drainage flow provide culverts or design to accommodate areas of sheet flow.

Interpretation: Provide markers at natural features of interest to relate to interpretive literature.

IMPLEMENTATION

YEAR 1: Gather materials and donations and apply for a grant such as the Texas Recreation and Parks Account Program under the Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife grants-in aid program and the Collin County recreation grant program to begin implementation of local priorities #1 through #12.